

Newsletter: AAC final call | Pacific organized crime | SCF@Nauru | ADB@50 | PNG Update | Greg Taylor scholarship



by Development Policy Centre

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AAC abstracts: last call

If you're planning to submit an abstract or panel proposal for the 2017 Australasian Aid Conference (AAC), you still have time – but not much! Submissions will close on October 16. The AAC covers a wide range of topics related to aid and international development, and offers excellent opportunities to network with academics and practitioners from around the region and the world. So don't delay – check the call for papers and access the submission portal [here](#).

Meanwhile, the conference continues to shape up. We're pleased to announce our second plenary session on “[Asian approaches to engaging the private sector in development cooperation](#),” sponsored by our co-hosts The Asia Foundation, with speakers from India, Korea, China and Australia.

Organized crime in the Pacific: a new crime genre

While organised crime comes in a variety of guises, a new discussion [paper](#) by Grant Walton and Sinclair Dinnen argues that organised crime in the Pacific is best framed as a nexus between political elites and seemingly licit actors.

They propose that the systematic weakening of crime prevention and oversight institutions, the unregulated transnational movement of goods, money and people, and the shifting nature of politics and international diplomacy across the Pacific provide greater opportunities for this type of organised crime. In a [blog](#) on the same subject, they argue that tackling it will require policy makers to focus their efforts on transnational business and political elites, rather than the types of tattooed gang members that are usually associated with the term 'organised crime'.

SCF@Nauru

Controversially, Save the Children took the contract to look after asylum seeker children in Nauru, and held it from August 2013 to October 2015. In his public lecture [The Nauru Dilemma](#), on 17 October at 1230pm, the SCF CEO Paul Ronalds will reflect on the experience, and the dilemmas involved.

ADB@50

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) was founded 50 years ago. Our [panel discussion](#) on 26 October at 10am will feature experts from the ANU and Lowy as well as ADB VP Stephen Groff discussing the future of the ADB.

PNG Update

Now confirmed for November 3 and 4 at the UPNG Waigani Campus in Port Moresby, with sessions on the PNG macroeconomy, education, gender, sustainability, urban, health, private sector, development strategies, the drought, and roads. Program and contact details [here](#). Attendance is free, and registration not required.

Greg Taylor scholarship for Pacific and PNG scholars

A reminder that we are still accepting expressions of interest from Pacific and PNG scholars interested in undertaking a short research placement at Devpolicy in 2016-17. Applications are accepted from students currently studying at an Australian university, and from new and emerging scholars from the Pacific and PNG. The role will see students engaged in research, with a focus on economics, for up to three months. For more information, please visit our [website](#). Applications close October 17.

Welcome to new staff

This week Devpolicy welcomes new staff and farewells existing ones. We are joined by Henry Sherrell, a Research Officer specializing in labour mobility, and Macarena Rojas, who resumes her position as Program Officer after maternity leave. We also farewell and thank Husnia Hushang, who did a great job while Maca was away.

Upcoming events

The Nauru dilemma

1230–130pm, Monday 17 October, Acton Theatre, Crawford School, ANU. Register [here](#).

ADB@50: what does the future hold?

10–11.30am, Wednesday 26 October, Barton Theatre, Crawford School, ANU. Register [here](#).

Strengthening public financial management reform in Pacific Island countries

1-230pm, Monday 31 October, Barton Theatre, Crawford School, ANU. Register [here](#).

PNG Update 2016

3–4 November, Waigani Campus, UPNG, Port Moresby. Details [here](#).

Economic diversification and tax reform in Papua New Guinea

1230-130pm, 8 December, Barton Theatre, Crawford School, ANU. Register [here](#).

Australasian Aid Conference 2017

15–16 February, Crawford School, ANU. Event details [here](#).

Blog highlights

[PNG and Kim Kardashian](#)

[Problems with CGD's migration index](#)

[Breaking Pacific gender barriers](#)

On the blog

[The dark side of economic globalisation: politics, organised crime and corruption in the Pacific](#) by Sinclair Dinnen and Grant Walton

[Pacific diabetes prevalence: lower than reported](#) by Richard Taylor and Paul Zimmet

[Agile aid for fragile states](#) by Andrew Leigh and Claire Moore

[Third-best in class? Australia's migration policies through a humanitarian lens](#) by Robin Davies

[PNG through the lens of Australian newsprint media](#) by Anthony Swan

[The perils of quantifying corruption](#) by Tatia Currie and Stephen Howes

[The highest glass ceiling](#) by Kerry Baker

[Teacher development evaluations](#) by Robert Cannon

In brief

[Fortnightly links: development unicorns, sweatshops, Afghan aid, cobalt, and more](#)

[Oil Search Foundation seeks Head of Signature Programs](#)

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